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TELEGRAPH BRANCH

Action
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Control: 1593
Rec'd: August 3, 1950
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM: Brussels

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 182, August 3.

Today press published letter from King Leopold to Prime Minister Duvieusart expressing King's compliance with agreement reached by King and three parties regarding delegation of powers to Crown Prince Baudouin. Translation of letter:

"Palace of Laeken, August 1, 1950, 6 a.m.

"Mr. Prime Minister:

"Yesterday evening after negotiations of the three parties, you deemed it necessary to recommend to me the acceptance of the declaration to the country in which I expressed particularly my intention to proceed with the delegation of constitutional powers to the Crown Prince, and accession to the throne of the Crown Prince when he shall have reached the age of civil majority, if, as I hope and desire, the promised reconciliation around my son takes place.

"In the course of the Council of Ministers held this same night, the Government confirmed to me this recommendation. The Government attached such importance to the King's adherence to this message that the expression of such adherence seemed essential to the Government for the accomplishment of its mission. Under these conditions I have, for reasons of national appeasement, stated my adherence to this message. My most earnest wish is that the country will understand the reasons for my attitude.

Leopold."

Press also printed following communique from president PSC, Van der Straeten-Waillet:

"The King called Mr. Van der Straeten-Waillet, president of PSC, Wednesday at 2 p.m. to the Palace at Laeken. He has authorized him to declare that the King, deeply disturbed by the gravity of the events, considers that all Belgians who believe the Monarchy is indivisibly linked to the

unity of

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unity of the country have the duty to rally around his son, that as consequence the vote on the law of delegation of royal powers to the Crown Prince is the only measure capable of restoring order, and finally that it is important that everyone abstain from manifestations which can only aggravate the agitation and division of the country."

In support of the above the extreme pro-Leopoldist LIBRE BELGIQUE states, "The King has spoken. The duty of everyone is to obey."

MURPHY

BA:MMG